

Rock Springs Road, a county road, traverses the Western New York Nuclear Service Center immediately to the west of the WVDP site. If required by an emergency situation at the WVDP, access to this road can be controlled by Cattaraugus County authorities (WVNS 2000b).

The Western New York Nuclear Service Center (Figure 1-1) is fenced with barbed wire. The boundary is patrolled by security officers in vehicles at random several times a day. The WVDP site, also referred to as the Security Area, is surrounded by a high chain-link fence and can be entered only through one of three gates. Access is controlled through the use of magnetically coded picture badges, which also must be displayed at all times within the Security Area (WVNS 2000b).

All project-specific activities are performed within the WVDP site boundary. The New York State licensed LLW burial area (SDA), which is currently inactive, is located within the WVDP site boundary but is not part of the project. Figure 1-2 delineates the Project Premises area and the SDA (WVNS 2000b).

The WVDP is an industrial facility that is visible from several miles away, depending on location. It is well lit at night.

Site Vicinity Land Use

Land use within 8 kilometers (5 miles) of the site is predominantly agricultural (active and inactive) and forestry uses. The major exception is the Village of Springville, which comprises residential/commercial and industrial land uses (WVNS 2000b).

The industries near the site are light-industrial and commercial (either retail or service oriented). A field review of an 8-kilometer (5-mile) radius did not indicate the presence of any industrial facilities that would present a hazard in terms of safe operation of the site.

A similar land-use field review of the Village of Springville and the Town of Concord did not indicate the presence of any significant industrial facilities. Industrial facilities near the Western New York Nuclear Service Center include Winsmith-Peerless Winsmith, Inc., a gear reducer manufacturing facility; Robinson/Fiddlers Green Manufacturing Company, Inc., a plastic housewares and knives manufacturing facility; Ashford Concrete Co., Inc., a ready-mix concrete supplier and concrete equipment manufacturing facility; and Springville Manufacturing, a fabricating facility for air cylinders (WVNS 2000b). The industries within the Village of Springville and the Town of Concord, Erie County, are located in a valley approximately 6 kilometers (4 miles) to the north and east of the WVDP.

3.6 SOCIOECONOMICS

This section briefly describes the socioeconomic environment at the Project Premises and surrounding areas, focusing on the population distribution within 80 kilometers (50 miles) and the identification of minority and low-income populations within this area. Because employment levels are not anticipated to change under any of the alternatives evaluated in this EIS, there would be no potential to impact the economy of the local area or the region. Therefore, this section is limited to the characterization of population distribution necessary to support the assessment of human health impacts from the proposed actions.

3.6.1 Population

Data collected during the 2000 Census continue to indicate relatively stable overall population levels in the 12 counties surrounding the Western New York Nuclear Service Center. The area within

16 kilometers (10 miles) of the site lies within Cattaraugus and Erie counties. The total population in these counties has decreased by 3.3 percent since the 1990 census, with a loss of 1.9 percent in Erie County and 0.3 percent in Cattaraugus County. The population and median household income of the 12 New York and Pennsylvania counties that lie within 80 kilometers (50 miles) of the site are presented in Table 3-2. Average income in all counties in the region for 2000 was above the poverty level of \$17,600 for a family of four (USCB 2001).

Table 3-2. Socioeconomic Conditions in the 12 Counties Surrounding West Valley, New York

County	Population (2000 Census)	Percent Change Since 1990	Persons per Square Mile	Median Household Income
Allegany County, NY	49,927	-1.10	48.5	31,291
Cattaraugus County, NY	83,955	-0.30	64.1	31,348
Chautauqua County, NY	139,750	-1.50	131.6	31,051
Erie County, NY	950,265	-1.90	910.2	36,711
Genessee County, NY	60,370	0.50	122.2	37,859
Livingston County, NY	64,328	3.10	101.8	39,354
Niagara County, NY	219,846	-0.40	420.4	36,218
Steuben County, NY	98,726	-0.40	70.9	33,732
Wyoming County, NY	43,424	2.20	73.2	35,915
McKean County, PA	45,936	-2.50	46.8	32,517
Potter County, PA	18,080	8.20	16.7	30,554
Warren County, PA	43,863	-2.60	49.7	33,863

Source: USCB 2001.

Figures 3-5 and 3-6 present population densities by the 15 points of the compass. Using the Project Premises plant as the center point, concentric, annular rings were drawn from the plant starting in 1-kilometer (0.6-mile) increments out to 5 kilometers (3 miles); a single 5-kilometer (3-mile) increment out to 10 kilometers (6 miles); and 10-kilometer increments out to 80 kilometers (50 miles). Figure 3-5 plots the data within 80 kilometers but, due to scale limitations, it cannot adequately portray data within 5 kilometers; therefore, Figure 3-6 provides data within 5 kilometers. The total calendar year 2000 population within 80 kilometers was 1,535,963 (USCB 2001).

3.6.2 Employment

DOE estimates that the waste management activities evaluated in this EIS would be accomplished by the existing work force with the technical capabilities now in use at the Western New York Nuclear Service Center. Based on the current employment of approximately 500 persons at the Center, no increases in employment would be anticipated to implement any of the alternatives proposed for this project. Evaluations in this EIS are based on continuation of current program funding and employment levels at the Center for the duration of all three alternatives. Funding for the WVDP and the Center is subject to change on an annual basis, and decreases or increases in the levels of program funding and related increases or decreases in employment levels are always possible.

3.6.3 Public Services

This section describes the public services currently available to the Project Premises and surrounding areas.

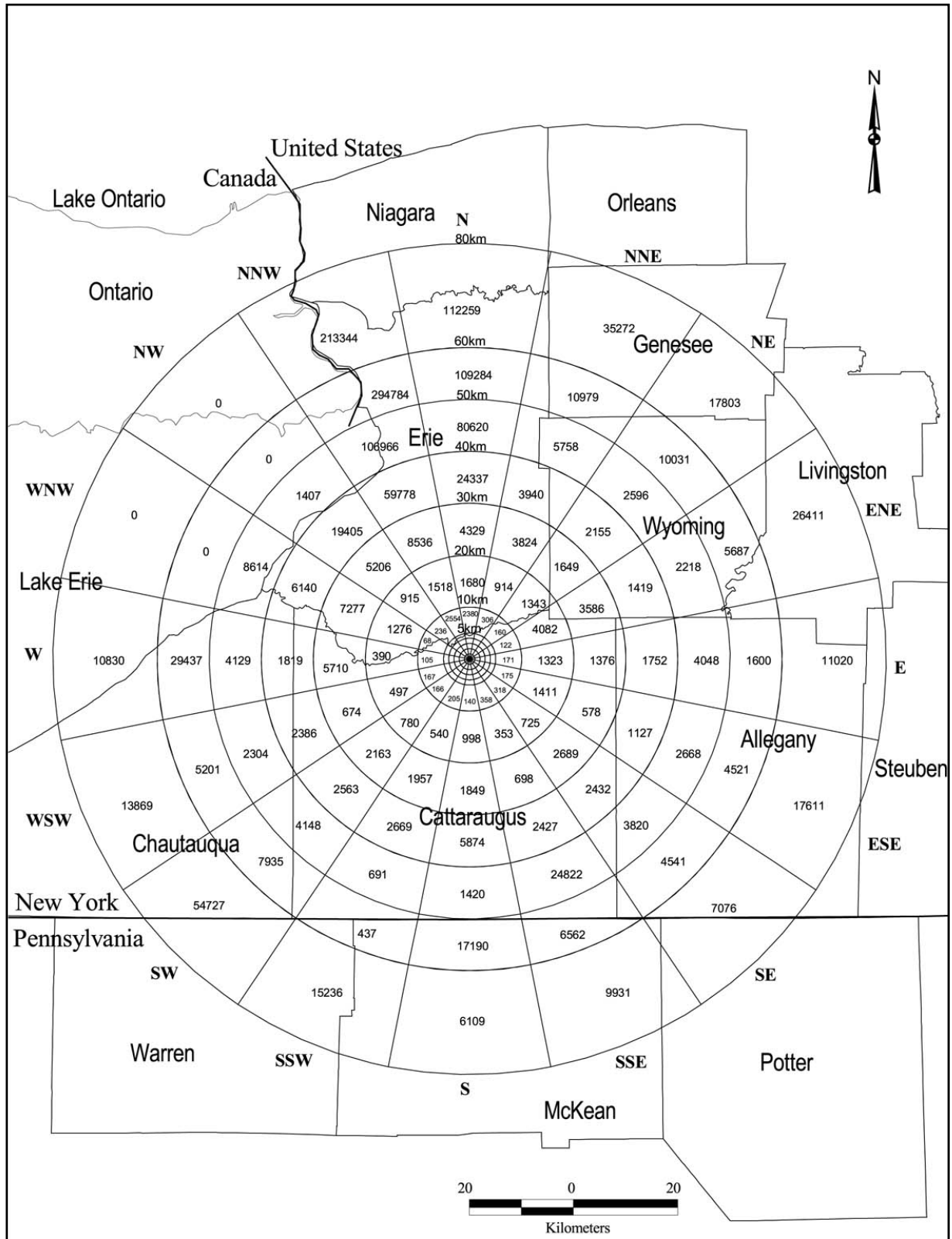


Figure 3-5. 2000 Population Density by Compass Direction (80-Kilometer Radius)

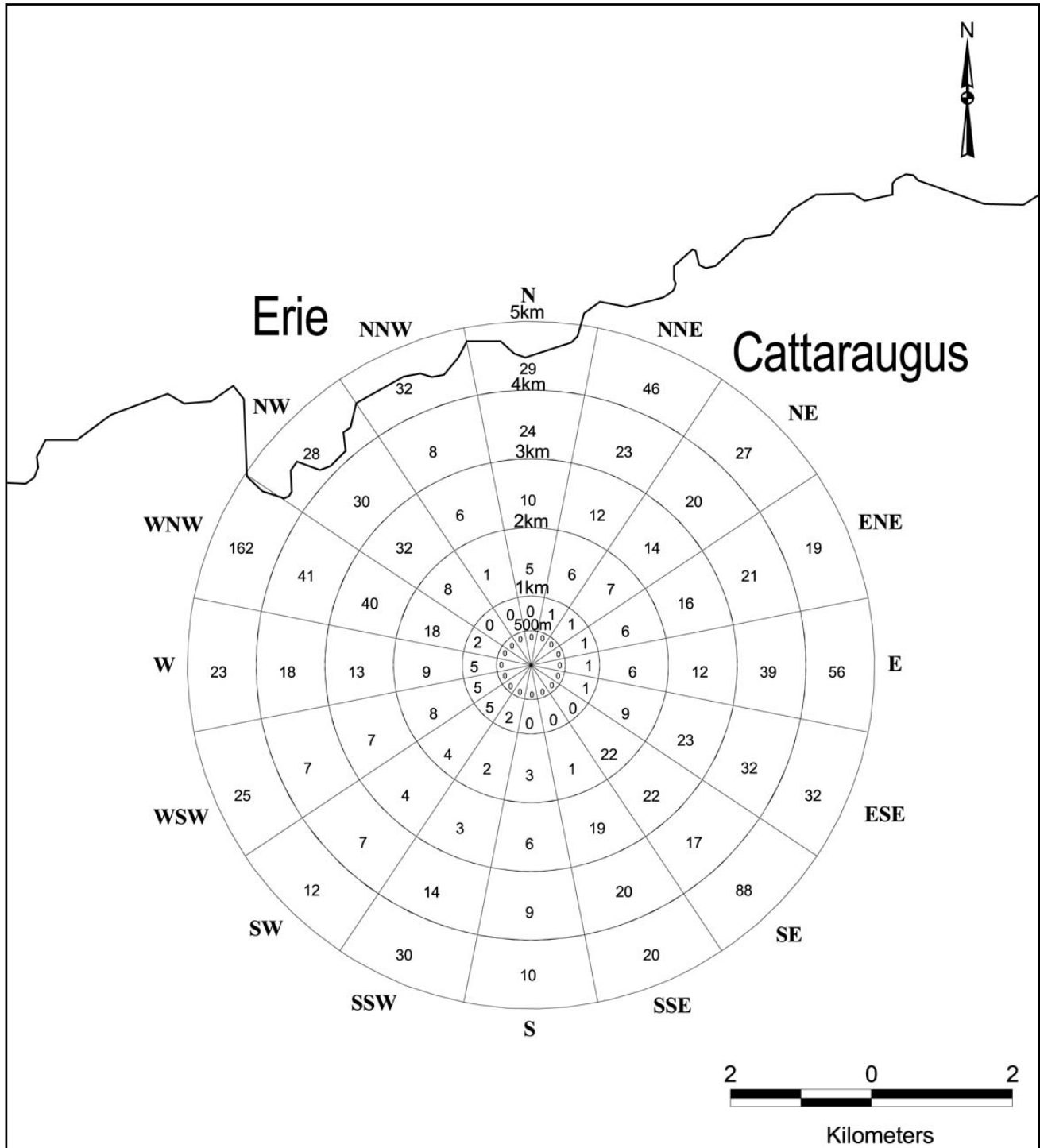


Figure 3-6. 2000 Population Density by Compass Direction (5-Kilometer Radius)

3.6.3.1 Human Services

The Cattaraugus County Health Department provides health and emergency services for the entire county, with the closest locations to the Western New York Nuclear Service Center being in the towns of Machias and Little Valley. Other resources providing health care services to the West Valley include Service Medical, Springville Pediatrics, Concord Medical Group, and several private physician practices located in Springville. The closest hospital to the Center is the Bertrand Chaffee Hospital, located approximately 6 kilometers (4 miles) north on Route 39 in Springville. A written protocol for WVDP-related emergency medical needs provides the basis for support in the event of emergency from Bertrand Chaffee Hospital (WVNS 1992b) and the Erie County Medical Center.

3.6.3.2 Community Water Supplies

The Western New York Nuclear Service Center has its own reservoir and water treatment system to service the facility. The system provides potable and facility service water for operating systems and fire protection. A reservoir system created by damming tributaries of Buttermilk Creek south of the Project site is the raw water source for the non-community, non-transient water supply operated by the WVDP. Two outlying buildings outside the Project site have wells that supply sanitary facilities (WVNS 1992b).

The hamlet of the West Valley community water supply is supplied by a spring that is piped to a reservoir. The reservoir supplies water to the hamlet through water mains. The other hamlets in Ashford Township, Ashford Hollow and Riceville, do not have community water supply systems; each individual residence has its own private well. The Village of Springville community water system is supplied by three groundwater wells (WVNS 1992b).

3.6.3.3 Fire and Police Protection

The West Valley Volunteer Hose Company provides fire protection services to the Western New York Nuclear Service Center and the Township of Ashford. Responders are trained and briefed yearly by the Radiation and Safety Department at the Center, and they have some limited training and capability to assist in chemical or radioactive occurrences. The West Valley Volunteer Fire Department has an agreement with the bordering towns' fire departments for mutual assistance in situations needing emergency backup. These neighboring volunteer fire departments are the William C. Edmunds Fire Company (East Otto), Ellicottville Volunteer Fire Department, Machias Volunteer Fire Department, Chaffee-Sardinia Memorial Fire Department, Delevan Volunteer Fire Department, East Concord Volunteer Fire Department, and Springville Volunteer Fire Department (WVNS 1992b).

The New York State Police and the Cattaraugus County Sheriff Department have overlapping jurisdictions for the West Valley area. Any assistance needed may be obtained from the state or county police departments (WVNS 1992b).

3.6.4 Transportation

Transportation facilities near the WVDP include highways, rural roads, a rail line, and aviation facilities. The primary method of transportation in the site vicinity is motor vehicle traffic on the highway system (Figure 3-7).

All roads in Cattaraugus County, with the exception of those within the cities of Olean and Salamanca, are considered rural roads. Rural principal arterial highways are connectors of population and industrial centers. This category includes U.S. Route 219, located 4.2 kilometers (2.6 miles) west of the site; Interstate 86, the Southern Tier Expressway located approximately 35 kilometers (22 miles) south of the

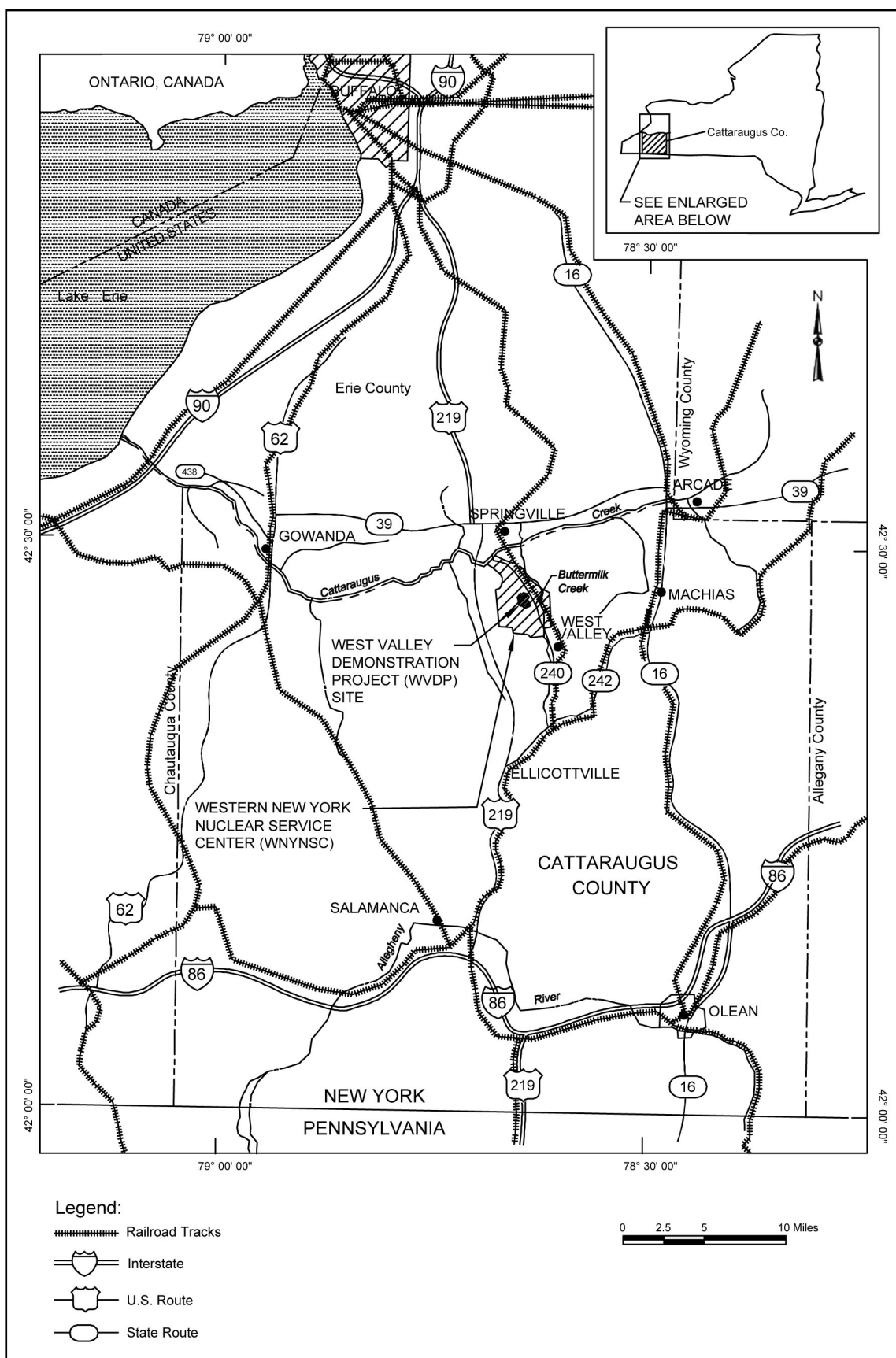


Figure 3-7. Transportation Routes in the Vicinity of the Center

site; and the New York State Thruway (I-90), approximately 35 kilometers (22 miles) north of the site. Traffic volume along U.S. 219 between the intersection with NY Route 39 at Springville and the intersection with Cattaraugus County Route 12 (East Otto Road) ranges from a low average annual daily traffic volume of 6,100 to a high volume of 7,500. Seasonal holiday traffic is as much as 128 percent of the average annual daily volume. Approximately 18 percent of the traffic consists of trucks. This route operates at a level of service B, which indicates a stable traffic flow, an operating speed of 80 kilometers per hour (50 miles per hour), and reasonable driver freedom to maneuver (WVNS 2000b).

Rock Springs Road, adjacent to the site on the west, serves as the principal site access road. The portion of this road between Edies Road and U.S. 219 is known as Schwartz Road. Along this road, between the site and the intersection of U.S. 219, are fewer than 24 residences. State Route 240, also identified as County Route 32, is 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) northeast of the site. Average annual daily traffic on the portion of NY Route 240 that is proximate to the site (between County Route 16 - Rosick Hill Road and NY Route 39) ranges from a low of 440 to a high of 2,250 (WVNS 2000b).

The Buffalo and Pittsburgh Railroad line is located within 800 meters (2,600 feet) of the Project Premises. Running from Salamanca, New York, north to Buffalo, the Buffalo and Pittsburgh Railroad line carries a variety of freight and coal north and freight and newly manufactured vehicles south from Canada. As a result of the general decline of heavy industry on the Niagara Frontier and of rail traffic in the northeast, use of this route has also declined. In recent years, the tracks have also experienced several washouts and kindred problems, forcing traffic rerouting for extended periods. While railroad accidents are not uncommon in the United States, the relatively low utilization of the line in the vicinity of the WVDP, coupled with the demographic factors outlined above, tend to minimize the likelihood of an accident with consequences for site operations. This conclusion is reinforced by the presence of a deep ravine with perennial streams between the tracks and the Project Premises. These features reduce the threat of rail accident, which might result in a fire or a spill affecting the project. An airborne threat from a rail accident still exists but is also significantly mitigated by both distance and topography of the site from the rail line. In 1999, the Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad completed connection of track between Ashford Junction and Machias, New York. Service by Buffalo and Pittsburgh Railroad on the rail line from the WVDP to Ashford Junction and then to Machias now provides the WVDP rail access (WVNS 2000b).

There are no commercial airports in the site vicinity. The only major aviation facility in Cattaraugus County is the Olean Municipal Airport, located in the Town of Ischua, 34 kilometers (21 miles) southeast of the site. Regularly scheduled commercial air service was terminated at this airport in early 1972. The nearest major airport is Buffalo Niagara International Airport, 55 kilometers (34 miles) north of the site (WVNS 2000b).

3.7 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources include but are not limited to:

- Archaeological materials (artifacts) and sites dating to the prehistoric, historic, and ethnohistoric periods currently located on the ground surface or buried beneath it;
- Standing structures that are over 50 years of age or are important because they represent a major historical theme or era;